

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT:REPORT OF TEA PRODUCERS PLAN TO CUT EXPORTS

FODAG FOR USREP TEA CONSULTATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING APPEARED IN THE AP ON JUNE 14, 1974 AND THE NEW YORK TIMES OF JUNE 15, 1974. "THIRTEEN COUNTRIES PRODUCING 90 PER CENT OF THE TEA SOLD ON INTERNATIONAL MARKETS ANNOUNCED TODAY THEY PLANNED TO CUT EXPORTS AND SET MINIMUM PRICE LEVELS IN ORDER TO BOOST PRICES. THEY SAID THAT THE PRICE INCREASES WERE NEEDED BECAUSE OF HIGHER FERTILIZER AND LABOR COSTS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY THE U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION SUBGROUP OF TEA EXPORTERS, WHICH ENDED FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS ON THEIR PROBLEMS. THE GROUP SAID THAT TOGETHER THE 13 COUNTRIES WOULD ONLY EXPORT 650,000 TONS OF TEA IN THE 1974-75 CROP YEAR. THIS WAS 23,000 TONS BELOW WHAT THE GROUP HAD DECIDED LAST YEAR TO EXPORT. THEY ALSO URGED INTENSIVE STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF FIXING MINIMUM EXPORT PRICES AND METHODS TO REDUCE STOCKS HELD BY IMPORTERS WHO SOMETIMES RELEASE THE STOCKS TO FORCE DOWN MARKET PRICES. AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE "TEA POWER" GROUP ARE INDIA, SRI LANKA, BANGLADESH, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES

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IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA."

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS USDEL TO TEA CONSULTATIONS REPORT

TELEGRAPHICALLY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH IS AVAIL-
ABLE ON THIS PRODUCER ACTION. SISCO

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